

# SPHERES OF INFLUENCE

DISCUSSION GUIDE  
MARCH 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016

## “Influenced” | Colossians 2:6-8, 3:15-17, 4:2-6

**GETTING STARTED:** What is one thing you do at home, but you would never do in a stranger’s house? What is the strangest thing a visitor has done in your home?

### EXPLORE THE PASSAGE:

1. What influences a person’s decision making process in the following areas: home buying, purchasing a vehicle, spending money, making friends, and spiritual growth.
2. Read Colossians 2:6-8. How does Paul stress the importance of embracing Christ rather than simply the message of Christ? How would you describe what it means to “receive Christ” to a friend?
3. How does an intentional, personal walk with Jesus energize the way we can influence others?
4. Why do some people *walk away from* Christ rather than *walk with* Christ? When have you experienced or witnessed this in your life?
5. Read Colossians 3:15-17. What experience do you have with letting God’s word dwell in your life? When have you spent time memorizing scripture? What is a good way to start with this sort of spiritual discipline?
6. How do you “do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the father through him?” How does a person practically live that out?
7. Read Colossians 4:2-6. Summarize the strategies that Paul outlines in these verses. How will these actions help Christ-followers influence those around them?

7. Who is one person (you don’t have to use their name) that you would like to see come to develop a life of faith in Jesus? How could the love and grace of Christ change them? How are you uniquely qualified to influence that person? How can this group be praying for you to begin/continue your influence with them?

### APPLY THE TRUTH:

Our 2 week “I Heart SPFLD” initiative continues this week. Review the types of personal projects listed at <http://southsidechristian.com/i-heart-spfld> and make a plan to impact your spheres of influence.

### PRAY:

Consider the Dallas Willard quote, “Don’t seek to develop a prayer life – seek a *praying life*. A “prayer life” is a segmented time for prayer. You’ll end up feeling guilty that you don’t spend enough time in prayer. Eventually you’ll probably feel defeated and give up. A “praying life” is a life that is saturated with prayerfulness – you seek to do all that you do *with* the Lord.” Where do you need to grow in developing a “praying life” in your own relationship with Christ?

*Note: Small groups will take a break for the week of Easter, then resume for four more weeks, beginning the week of April 3.*

### NOTES:

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## Mapping My Spheres

Spheres	When and where do I already intersect with this sphere?	Who do I already know in this sphere?	How will I influence the people and culture of this sphere?
<i>Arts/Media</i>			
<i>Business</i>			
<i>Education</i>			
<i>Government/ Politics</i>			
<i>Science/Medicine/ Technology</i>			
<i>Family</i>			
<i>Religion</i>			

*Don't worry – it doesn't have to be perfect! This worksheet will be available each week during our "Spheres of Influence" sermon series. You can use the same one each week or start fresh as you expand your understanding of your spheres of influence.*